

Forest Plan Revision Spokane Workgroup Meeting Notes

April 13, 2004

Attendees: Public- Tom Crimmins, Dave Griffiths, Lori Jordan, Hal Rowe, Eric Ryan, Reid Ahlf, Rein Attemann, Andrew Ashmore, Miles Breneman, Chic Burge, Jeff Cook, Cris Currie, Marty Gangis, Lunell Haught, Roger Hickey, Suzi Hokonson, Patty Houff, Marsha Jones, Mike Kaluza, John Latta, Walter Lindstrom, Roger McKeon, Lorna Ream, Steve Reynolds, Guy Richardson, Karl Rieger, Jon Thorpe, Rick Dreher, Miles Fuhrman, Mike Galles, Eric Hesse, Doug Jonas, Jack O'leary, Scott O'leary, Aron Ostberg, Duane Pangborn, Gordon Pangborn, Larry Pangborn, Bob Speerstra, Jim Hagengruber, Alan Dragoo, Will Deishl, Don Burger, Roy Basler, Terry Drake, Lynn Smith, Marlene Gemar, Ryan Chamness, Jeff Hildesheim, Marc Quinn, Joe Kopp, Roger Oestmann, Tom Hildesheim, Rick Vance, Roger & Linda Rivers, Jim & Mary Kopplin, Jeff Culbreth, Darren Propst, Catherine & James Dorsey, Randy Colbert. Forest Service- Dave O'Brien, Kent Wellner, Carolyn Upton, and Jodi Kramer

Next Meeting Date:

April 27th 6:30 – 8:30: Review and finalize Desired Conditions for All Revision Topics.

Meeting location: University High School "Commons Area" on Pines and 32nd in Spokane.

Introductions (Dave O'Brien)

Dave welcomed everyone and discussed agenda for the evening. Tonight's topics include brainstorming on: Access and Recreation – Motorized and Non-motorized and Motorized, Wheeled Cross-Country Travel. Kent Wellner, IPNF Recreation Specialist shared information about these topics and answered questions. Everyone turned in their sensing sheets for Vegetation, Fire, Timber Production, Watersheds, Aquatic Species and Wildlife and following are the draft Desired Condition statement results:

VEGETATION

Generally Agree and/or Can live with

- Like to see a full range of successional forest stages - "Age diversification".
- Species diversity with emphasis on native species.
- "Right" species on the "right" sites - Full balance of all tree species represented.
- Historical range = increase immunity? (I think this asks that the vegetation closely resemble what existed historically-and that the mix of species would be better suited for this ecosystem).
- Return fire to the ecosystem.
- More native trees (large) that are fire, insect and disease, and drought "resistant"
- Natural systems restored all natural elements interplaying (system resistant to insects)
- Watershed function to retain water holding capacity.
- Maintain Old Growth & recruit old growth.
- More browse for game forest wide.
- Maintain/Improve riparian vegetation & canopy.
- Less noxious weeds.
 - Educate and prevention.
- Vegetation that is Resilient, Longer lasting, and Healthy
- Management activities in urban interface areas to mimic effects of fire.
- Maintain healthy forests through management activities such as:
 - Thinning.
 - Fuels reduction.
 - Prescribed burning.
 - Protect rare species/plants and communities.
- Avoid drastically destructive clear cutting practices, and eliminate scars from previous damage.
- Maintain road infrastructure for recreation and fire access.
- Change fire-fighting (control) practices.

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- Less management of lightning strikes, to let natural fire proceed.

Generally Split (Disagree and Agree)

- Allow for more natural process to occur (Insect, disease, fire...) for ecological benefits.
- 10 mile buffer from Priest Lake to keep visual quality.
- Can go into WUI (wildland urban interface) Category/reduce distance to ½ mile.
- Eliminate roads/ build NO new roads.
- Logging practices modified.
- Smaller experimental forests – tests of management prior to implementing on a large scale.
- WUI-more focus on treatment versus backcountry.

Generally Disagree

- Maintain the healthy forests that we have.
 - “Don’t cut the trees down”.
 - “Don’t do any management” – no fire suppression, insect/disease management.
- No chemical/mechanical controls of weeds.

FIRE

Generally Agree and/or Can live with

WUI’s (Wildland Urban Interface)

- Reduce fuels as close to communities as possible.
- Treatment of insect and diseases to reduce fire risk.

General Forest

- Use prescribed fire.
- Fire is ok in wildland forest.
 - Salmo Priest
 - Upper St. Joe
 - Lightning Creek/Spar Lake
- Wildland forest fires ok in roadless areas (dissenting voice).
- Prescribed fire commensurate with risk to structures, communities, etc.
- Use type of logging commensurate and/or to maintain visual qualities.
- Allow natural fires to burn w/in prescription (list of criteria).
- Use fire to control noxious weeds.
- Use scientific data instead of political – educate the public.

Generally Split (Disagree and Agree)

General Forest

- Long term- return to a natural regime.
- Fire only in wilderness.
- Use mechanical treatment to reduce fuels.
- Limited mechanical treatment.

Generally Disagree

WUI’s (Wildland Urban Interface)

- No WUI - fuels are too high and in the front 40.

General Forest

- Long term- return to a natural regime.
- No mechanical treatment.

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TIMBER PRODUCTION

Generally Agree and/or Can live with

- Timber harvest not allowed in proposed wilderness.
- Timber harvest is sustainable.
- Retain integrity of old growth in upper Priest River Basin (upper Priest Lake to Canadian border).
- Protecting forest ecosystem is essential to quality of life and regional economy.
- Timber harvest is one of the contributors to the regional economy.
- Prioritize timber harvest in conjunction with Fire Management Units (FMU's).
- Adjust harvest so other events such as insect and disease, wildfire (F& F) do not deplete below reasonable sustainable harvest levels with emphasis on forest restoration.
- Harvest ok if unhealthy and to promote forest restoration.
- Use land exchange to consolidate in backcountry.
- Visual and resource (flora & fish, slides) concerns limit clear-cut size, if at all.
- Consider cost of road construction compared to other alternative methods when harvesting timber.
- Timber harvest is a tool to:
 - Improve forest health
 - Reduce fuel loads.
 - Improve wildlife habitat.
 - Benefit community stability.
- Be careful about timber harvest in upper Coeur d'Alene GA- sediment into the watershed and existing sediments.
- Educate public to goals and possible end results.
- Products ok to supply needs if restoration goals are achieved.
- If have timber then priority is with the areas needing restoration.

Generally Split (Disagree and Agree)

- Timber harvest is outside IRA's - Leave roadless out of timber base.
- Lands council forest restoration alternative.
- Maximum harvest – sustainable.
- Do not harvest "healthy" stands.

WATERSHEDS AND AQUATIC SPECIES

Generally Agree and/or Can Live With

- Restore watersheds that are Not Properly Functioning (NPF).
- Maintain or improve Functioning At Risk (FAR) watersheds.
- Prevent degradation of those watersheds that are in a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC).
- Prioritize Functioning at Risk (FAR) watersheds for restoration work.
- Implement anti-degradation policy.
- Trend all watersheds toward Properly Functioning Condition (PFC).
- Restore existing roads using vegetation without further disturbing water quality.
- Relocate necessary access roads where necessary to protect water quality.
- Limit logging and road building in headwater streams so as to not increase sediment and water yield.
- Species resiliency for native species.
- Maintain drinking water quality in domestic water supplies.
- Ongoing restoration process for watersheds and native fish to provide for all beneficial uses.
- Set priorities to restore fish habitat and Functioning At Risk (FAR) watersheds to protect Bull Trout.
- Provide clear quantitative and qualitative standards.

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- By 2050, 75% of watersheds in PFC.
- Focus on worst 25% of watersheds first NPF.
- Greatest bang for buck to work on those FAR.
- Integrate priorities with wildlife and fish.
- Integrate recommendations for GS survey/Lake Management Plan for Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Rivers regarding heavy metals and TMDLs.
- Work toward removal of streams from 303d list.
- Monitoring system – site specific as close as possible to the disturbed areas.
- Watershed restoration should be done with appropriated funds, not any activity that degrades the watershed.
- Implement the Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the feedback loop using best science.
- Provide information for visitors on how to protect Bull Trout – Brochures and signs.
- Use logging methods that reduce compaction.
- Question the use of shears and forwarders and their impact on soil nutrients.
- Leave slash in the woods for nutrients.

Generally Split (Disagree and Agree)

- Chinese saying “Taking care of mountains will take care of rivers” i.e. roadless areas and headwaters.

Wildlife

Generally Agree and/or Can Live With

- Restore forest habitat to attract Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive species (T/E/S).
- Identify the areas that could be most beneficial to specific species.
- Provide for recreational opportunities for motorized and non-motorized recreation.
 - **Maintain habitat for viable populations of elk and deer so hunting is maintained.**
- Trend toward Historic Range of Variability (HRV) for vegetative species and age classes.
- Use HRV as a benchmark and identify habitat and wildlife security needs.
- Improve and develop linkages and corridors among habitats - Provide corridors for wide-ranging species.
- Habitat will sustain all wildlife species at level above threatened and endangered, i.e. de-listing.
- Manage fire to provide habitat variety according to historical standards including wildland fire use.
- Use integrated timber management practices to provide habitat variety.
- Ensure consistency of recreation policies among similar management units.
- Public education for how to live with wildlife to prevent human caused mortality.
- Monitor habitats and populations.
- Identify “true” security, not surrogates - use the best science.
- Use logging methods which improve habitat.
- Provide better public information on roadless areas.

Generally Split (Disagree and Agree)

- No motorized access in T/E/S habitat.
- No human access at all in critical T/E/S habitat.
- Wildlife recovery is a priority over recreational uses and economic uses.
- Dramatically reduce road densities on the entire forest.
- Manage roadless and proposed wilderness areas to conserve habitat of species on T/E/S lists.

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The group then broke up into 4 smaller groups and brainstormed desired condition statements for access – motorized and non-motorized, winter and summer and motorized, wheeled cross-country travel and following are the results:

Group 1

Members: Dave O'Brien, Rein Attemann, Karl Rieger, Will, Hal Rowe, Rick, Jack Oleary, Patty Houff, Cris Currie, Roy Basler, Aron, Jim, Marty Gangis, Rick and Roger.

- Use existing roads to get from trailhead to trailhead.
- No restrictions on cross-country travel.
- Specify areas that are not adequate for cross-country travel.
- Adopt Executive Order that closes all NFS lands unless marked open/designated for x, y, z.
- Need to value resources (water, soil, wildlife) as top priority, not self-interest/wants.
- More signage/education for what is closed or open.
- Education ie. colored maps and video tape at all outdoor outlets, fishing stores, ATV stores and dealers, hiking stores etc.
- Adopt/analyze sierra Club's Forest Restoration Alternative section on travel management.
- Too much is being closed and/or restricted. Keep things open.
- Rotate and balance trails for wheeled vehicles.
- Broader handicap opportunities.
- Need to utilize users for education and enforcement.
- Need to increase enforcement of the law and monitoring.
- There ought to be areas for quiet/tranquility to meet those users desires/needs because too much motorized users are pushing the non-motorized out of the forest – equality.
- There is a huge disparity between distance covered by motorized versus non-motorized. This needs to be taken into consideration.
- More public input/comment on loop routes in appropriate areas for proper/appropriate uses.
- Research and work to use/adopt Payutte Recreation Plan.
- Seems like there needs to be specific designated areas for specific uses in order to separate "conflicting desired" and for safety purposes. Some people don't mind co-uses on the same road or trail.
- Implement a user count to get solid baseline numbers and baseline numbers at various areas.
- Incorporate all best available science and data for management decisions/direction.
- All users should pay equal fees.
- Be aware of short seasonal timeframes for motorized use.

Winter Recreation

- Separation of uses is very important in the St. Regis basin.

Group 2

Members: Carolyn Upton, John Latta, Roger Oestmann, Lorna Ream, Steve Reynolds, Eric Ryan, Tom Hildesheim, Guy Richardson, Suzin Hokonson, Scott O'Leary, Andrew Ashmore, Gordon Pangborn, Larry Pangborn, and Tom Crimmins.

Motorized, Wheeled Cross-Country Travel

- Closed unless designated open lacks flexibility.

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- Avoid concepts of "closed unless open" or "open unless closed" in Plan because too hard to implement.
- Focus on cross-country travel allowances.
- Allow cross-country for some activities, ie. camping, parking
- Opportunities for responsible cross-country travel should exist.
- Cross-country should not be allowed in proposed wilderness or inventoried roadless areas or RNAs.
- Idaho should adopt the MT cross-country EIS, which is no motorized, wheeled vehicles allowed except on existing roads and trails.
- Existing routes not on the system should be analyzed in accordance with 36 CFR 295 and this analysis should be a priority for the Forest Service.
- Travel on existing routes should be allowed until analysis is complete for consideration to put them on the Forest Service system.
- Consider (MA?) opportunities to convert existing single track to ATV trails.
- Designate the difference between single track and ATV trails and non-motorized.
- Decisions on cross-country travel should be made at the local (GA) level.
- Need to clearly communicate the rules for cross-country travel.
- Need to consider Forest Service budget situation for trail/road maintenance or construction – both effectively using current funds and needing more funds and consider cost share.
- Education of responsible use and regulations is needed. Use resources such as Tread Lightly and other existing sources and personal contacts.

Motorized, Non-Motorized, Summer and Winter Area Allocations

- Add more specificity to the table that Kent Wellner proposed to go into the Forest Plan for each MA for both summer and winter, like the following table:

Summer	Emphasize	Accept	Prohibit
Motorized activities	Motorcycles, ATVs, 4x4s	Motorcycles, ATVs, 4x4s	Motorcycles, ATVs, 4x4s
Non-motorized activities	Mountain bikes, horses, hikers		

- Horse but not llamas should be considered with motorized due to potential damage.
- Should be quiet areas with no sounds of motorized vehicles.
- Wilderness should be non-motorized. Proposed Wilderness should be non-motorized winter and summer. Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) should be managed for multiple use and make decisions by area based on matrix as there are many options. General forest areas should be managed like IRAs.
- Proposed wilderness could allow for some limited motorized use.
- Proposed wilderness should be managed not as wilderness but to protect wilderness potential.
- Inventoried Roadless Areas should not be motorized access summer or winter (based on roadless comments nationally).
- General forest in summer and winter – local flexibility should address when summer uses and winter uses start and stop based on condition that varies from year to year.
- Create winter non-motorized areas that are for winter non-motorized use – areas other than wilderness (ex. Spokane Mountaineers proposal for Alpine Lakes)
- If non-motorized areas are available, and there are conflicts in motorized areas with non-motorized users, consider closing area to non-motorized users.
- Calving areas closed to motorized use should also be closed to hikers.

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Group 3

Members: Jodi Kramer, Diana Roberts, Alan Dragoo, Joe Kopp, Lunell Haught, Jon Thorpe, Marsha Jones, Lynn Smith, Catherine Dorsey, Roger Hickey, Walt Lindstrom, Doug Jonas, Reid Ahlf, Rodger Mckeen, and Ryan Chambers.

Motorized, Wheeled Cross-Country Travel

- No motorized, wheeled travel except on existing routes.
- Specific analysis (EIS) before closing existing routes.
- Better management/more complete inventory of existing and non-system routes.
- In non-motorized MAs, ensure access to motorized MAs. Don't create an island and limit access to motorized MAs using non-motorized MAs surrounding them.
- In motorized MAs, rotate opening/closing of certain roads for management purposes.
- Bicycles limited to existing routes in addition to motorized users.
- Designate OHV play areas on National Forest system lands that are challenging and interesting.
- Don't surround non-motorized MAs with motorized MAs or don't make a checkerboard out of the MAs.
- Use Geographic barriers between motorized and non-motorized areas to achieve sound and visual insulation.
- Provide adequate opportunities for different motorized recreation ie. jeeps, dirtbikes, ATVs etc.
- Incorporate existing routes into system if appropriate and after site specific analysis is done.
- Close inappropriate existing routes based on environmental concerns and recreational use.
- Publish maps and signs showing recreational uses allowed.

Summer and Winter Non-Motorized

- Designate snopark areas in high use areas with developed facilities (outhouses).
- Have areas out of earshot of motorized users summer and winter (geographic barriers)
- Increase non-motorized trail miles for hikers, bikers and horses in Coeur d'Alene District ie. Steven Lake, Independence Creek.
- Increase non-mechanized areas, no bicycles allowed.
- Increase non-mechanized opportunities at Priest Lake.
- Maintain mountain bike routes at Priest Lake.
- Increase non-motorized winter trails at Priest Lake.
- Increase non-motorized winter trails at Priest Lake not at the expense or fragmentation of motorized trails.
- Maintain current balance of motorized and non-motorized roads and trails.
- Make use clear – have signs and maps and better law enforcement.
- Consideration of wildlife needs in any trail designation and human use – winter and summer.
- Winter and summer definitions/ date varies with wildlife cycles and trail conditions by area.
- Better education for trail etiquette for shared trails.
- Make signs indicating recreational use allowed (more positive) than what's not allowed to reduce vandalism.

Summer and Winter Motorized

- More motorized roads and trails – winter and summer.
- Eliminate some existing routes via EIS when incompatible with forest and wildlife restoration.
- Maintenance expense factored into opening and closing of roads and trails.
- Education, signage, enforcement must be incorporated into trail and road management.
- Utilize volunteers to maintain and improve trails and for law enforcement.
- Education by utilizing sporting good stores.

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- Channel user fees and licenses directly back into forest management and education and trail maintenance.
- Responsible users police and educate other users.
- Encourage commercial enterprise to provide “mudbogs” on private land instead of on National Forest lands.
- Develop terrain parks on National forest lands to relieve trail pressure.
- All riders must be accompanied by a person older than 18 who is responsible for them, therefore creating more responsible riding and less resource damage.
- Forest users should stay on existing trails to go through the forest.
- Consider developing relationships with state licensing boards to incorporate educational and road/trail etiquette for a motorized license.

Group 4

Members: Kent Wellner, Jeff Hildesheim, Lori Jordan, Linda Rivers, Bob Speerstra, Don Burger, Randy Colbert, Dana Propst, Jeff Cook, Chic Burge, Miles Fuhrman, Miles Breneman, Dave Griffiths, Marlene Gemar, Mike Galles, Marc Quinn and Terry Drake.

Motorized, Wheeled Cross-Country Travel

- Cross-country motorized wheeled travel open to existing routes only.
- Evaluate areas for cross-country motorized travel. Specific areas for free riding and play areas preferably close in and easy to access.
- Limit summer motorized wheeled travel to system routes only.
- Look at historical trail system (CCC and fire trails) to evaluate including in the system.
- Encourage education and signage and proper use of trails to discourage illegal cross-country trails and roads be created.
- If play areas designated, provide constructed features and a management plan for the area.
- Encourage travel year-long on existing roads, trails and designated cross-country areas for all uses.

Motorized, Non-Motorized, Summer and Winter Area Allocations

- Timber management MAs should be open to motorized recreation year-round to all motorized uses.
- ATV registration should fund some law enforcement activity.
- Define areas close in for non-motorized use as in hiking and skiing year-round, while defining areas further out for motorized uses to include play areas, where either activity does not harm or disturb resources and wildlife.
- By closing cross-country travel, additional wilderness is created between routes.
- Encourage education and signing and proper use of roads/areas to discourage degradation of resources and wildlife.
- Given all current direction, restricting access for motorized users, maintain current open areas.
- Examine areas for additional motorized use, taking into consideration existing MA restrictions.

MEETING WRAP-UP: Participants were handed the DC statements for Developed/Dispersed Recreation, Inventoried Roadless Areas and Proposed Wilderness. They were told that they would be getting a letter or email about the next meeting and attached to that would be this same document and the DC statements for Access – Motorized/Non-motorized and Cross-country travel. This will be returned to Brad Gilbert by April 22nd to be analyzed before the 4/27 meeting.